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**IRS. J. W. JACKSON**



*Thomas Lawrence*







# The Boundary Line

And Other

**BITS OF BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY.**

Originally Written For

**The "Sussex Independent,"**

By

**MARTHA MORRIS LAWRENCE.**



1895.

PRESS OF SUSSEX INDEPENDENT,  
DECKERTOWN, N. J.



JOHN

MAY 16 1932  
Mrs. Joseph Jackson

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1895.

## PREFACE.

The first edition of these sketches was due to my father's interest in having them collected and printed in book form. It seems but right to make of this a tribute to his memory by adding the family history with his picture and memorial.

M. M. LAWRENCE.

HAMBURG, N. J., May, 1895.



## BATTLES OF THE BOUNDARY LINE.



SINCE THE DAY HENDRICK HUDSON looked upon the New Jersey shore at Neversink Highlands, and pronounced it a "very good place to fall in with, and a pleasant land to see," many disputes have arisen over the possession of its bountiful acres. When the Duke of York first made known his intention of giving Lords Berkeley and Carteret a part of the grant he had received from his royal brother, Governor Nicolls objected to the partition, saying he was parting with "the best of his possessions in fertility of soil and fair hope of rich mines." It was not easy to decide where the new province was to be cut off, but looking over the best map then made of the new country they made the northern boundary line run from the "northermost branch of the Delaware river, which is in latitude forty-one degrees and forty minutes, to a point on Hudson's River, in latitude forty-one degrees." This seems clear enough, and if a branch of the Delaware River had been found at the given latitude it is possible all the troubles which made a sort of border war for more than a century might have been avoided. The people of New Jersey thought that finding the given point of latitude, so distinctly named, would answer as well on the Delaware as on Hudson's River, but they little knew how much trouble that imperfect old map

would give them. It is not intended here to follow the official dispute which fills so many pages of our archives. The whole story is clearly told by the late W. A. Whitehead in a paper read before the New Jersey Historical Society, May 19, 1859. He alludes to the personal interests involved, but does not describe them. It may not be well to rake up the troubles of other days, but since the time for bitter feeling is past we may now wish to know who owned the disputed lands, and learn how hard the struggle in those days to make and keep a home in these wild regions.

One of the earliest accounts of a personal visit of inspection through this country is given in the journal of Captain Arent Schuyler, in 1694. He was sent by the Governor of New York to visit the Minisink country; and the line of his journey was over the road now daily traveled by the trains of the N. Y., S. & W. R. R. But his experience was somewhat different from that of the traveler who to-day buys his ticket, crosses the ferry, and takes a comfortable seat in a car at Jersey City, finding himself in Middletown in a few hours. Captain Schuyler left New York February 3, and spent the first night at Bergentown. This place, of which an interesting account is given in "Windfield's History of Hudson Co.," was where Marion now stands. Here he hired two men and a guide, and on the 4th traveled "about ten English miles beyond Haghkingsack to an Indian place called Peckwes." He gives us the early method of writing these names. On the 5th he went "thirty-two miles north-west," but does not say where he stopped that night. Next day (6th) he reached Magaghamack (now Port Jervis), and was then within a half-day's journey of the Minisink, which place he reached on Wednesday, February 7, at 11 o'clock. It took him four days to go over the ground now traveled in less than four hours. The

Minisink region extended from "The Water Gap to Lackawaxen, on both sides of the Delaware River," and he does not say just where he had his interview with the Indian chiefs, but he invested in land, for we find his name later as owner of one of the patents on the boundary line.

In 1709 Peter Fauconnier, Collector and Receiver-General in New Jersey, wrote to Lord Cornburry that the £2,000 tax laid upon the province was especially hard upon those living upon the frontier; that the true line being undecided the planters on the disputed ground were exposed to the demand for taxes from both States, and also for calls for militia duty.

One of the greatest obstacles to the location of the boundary line between the two provinces was the existence of two large grants, known as the Wawayanda and Minisink Patents. These were called "floating patents," and as Mr. Edsall says in his Centenary Address, "seemed to be run with a gum elastic chain." The Wawayanda Patent was granted in 1703, by twelve Indian Sachems to John Bridges & Co. One of the men associated with Bridges was Christopher Denn, who made the first settlement on his new ground in 1712. The story of the brave girl whom he sent with the guides to make a home in the forest is told in Eager's History of Orange County: "Sarah Wells was the first white woman who placed a foot on the ground where Goshen now stands." Her numerous descendants may well be proud of her. The Southern boundary of the Wawayanda Patent was to be the line between New Jersey and New York; it was therefore the interest of the owners to make that line run as far south as possible. The grant was for 60,000 acres, but when run out it covered 150,000. The Minisink Patent granted in 1704, to Matthew Ling & Co., was still larger, but the only mention of its ex-

tent I find is that "it included 160,000 acres in New Jersey."

When James Alexander was made Surveyor-General, in 1719, it seemed as if the disputed question would soon be settled, and had justice prevailed, it might have been. With his usual energy he took the personal supervision of the surveying party appointed by both States to find the given latitude at both points and also the northernmost branch of the Delaware River. They found and marked this point on what was then called "Fishkill branch of Delaware," now part of the main river. The place was called Station Point, now Cochection. The New York surveyor, Allane Jarrett, made no objection to this decision at the time. It was undoubtedly in latitude forty-one degrees and forty minutes. The station on Hudson River in latitude forty-one was also decided upon the line run out. A Tripartite Deed was drawn up, to which East and West Jersey had agreed, when Surveyor Allane Jarrett put a stop to the settlement by a statement to the effect that the instrument used in taking the observation of latitude was not perfect, and his conscience would not allow him to consent to such an important decision until a better instrument could be brought from England. The New Jersey surveyors show their dismay at this dissent, when all had seemed to be satisfactory. They object to "the visionary whim and cant of the surveyor," and with reason, for this delay upset the whole plans, and left the people on the disputed line to fight their own battles and protect their lands as best they could. No doubt both parties had purchased in good faith, but appeals to the courts were useless, as they were so far away.

As early as 1720 serious troubles began between the Swartwouts who held land under a New York grant, and the Westfalls, who were on the New Jersey side. Gov-

ernor Burnet, to whom the first disputes were submitted, sent some one to look into the matter, and as far as the grain, which both claimed, was concerned, the subject was settled for a time. In 1730 Major Swartwout knew his house was in danger and had the men on his farm ready to meet any attacks with loaded guns. No doubt the place was watched, as an attack was made when he and his men were absent. His wife was ill, and the trouble is believed to have caused her death. He procured help from Goshen and when the people in possession were least expecting it, a signal was given, the party rushed in, repelled the invaders, and reinstated the Major. To show how these troubles pass from father to son, thirty years later the heirs of these same border families are involved in a similar dispute. In 1759 Philip Swartwout complained that he is not left in peace on the land owned by his father, that he, with his family, cattle and household furniture, were forcibly ousted, just as he was beginning his spring work. The men engaged in this contest represent the claim of Cornelius Westfall, and their names show them to be the ancestors of those who still own property in our county.

The High Sheriff of Orange County was commanded to apprehend these men, whose names were, "Abram Vanaken, Abram Westbrook, James Clark, Solomon Coy Kendall, Cornelius Cole, Bryan Hammel, Jacobus Vanaken, Matthew Terwilliger, Simon, Jurian and Jacob Westfall, and Petrus Smoke, who calls himself Sheriff of Sussex County." November 9, 1759, Daniel Everitt, Sheriff of Orange County, says he has executed the order of the court, and finding only a woman and five children in the house, met with no opposition, and Philip Swartwout was again in possession. To show how far Orange County claimed jurisdiction, we find that Anthony Westbrook, Lambert and Peter Brink, of Mini-



sink Precinct, where Montague now is, contributed £29 of New York currency to the erection of the first Goshen jail. But the New Jersey people were not always the aggressors. Another story on record proves that some of the New York claimants could well take their own parts. Col. Thomas DeKay held his land under a New York grant, and it lay directly on the line of 1719. It was to his advantage to have that line run further south, and he made efforts to accomplish this by putting obstacles in the way of the surveyors. On July 20, 1753, Richard Gardner was making a survey, with John Herring and Peter Decker as chain bearers. They were met by George and Jacobus DeKay and ordered to stop; asking the reason, they were told that "Father was coming and would soon give them reason enough." Col. DeKay joined them and a lively battle ensued. A walking stick was taken from John Herring, "which they split in pieces in giving the said J. H. about twenty blows." A pistol is said to have been shown, but only to threaten. The real cause of the encounter was the the surveying implements which were taken from the surveyors. "The compass and chain, a pair of dividers, a scale, &c." Before this, one Daniel Harrison tried to serve Col. DeKay with a "Declaration of Ejectment," but was kept one night a prisoner in his house, taken to the Orange County jail the next day, and there he stayed until he could get some one to ride to Newark and inform his friends of his position. In 1754, Col. DeKay complains that he is obliged "to nail up his doors every night, except one, over which a guard is placed for fear of being surprised in his bed by the people of New Jersey." But the Jersey people got little satisfaction out of their encounters with him. This shows how far from peaceful were the lives of our frontier families, and how much interest the owners of land felt in the settlement of the question.

Some idea of the value of land at this time is given in a letter by Col. Lewis Morris, son of Gov. Morris, in 1748. He gives a list of the patents on the boundary line and names the quit rent paid by each :

"A Patent to the Inhabitants of Tapan.	} Quit rent, 16 Bshl. of Wt.
A Patent to John Lockhart.	} Quit rent, 12 Shil. N. Y. money.
A Patent to Honans and Hawdon.	} Quit rent, 1 Beaver skin.
A Patent to Bridges and Co., called Wawayanda.	} Quit rent £4, N. Y. money.
A Patent to Mat. Ling & Co., called Minisink.	} Quit rent, £9, N. Y. money.
A Patent to Bridges & Co., called Cheesecocks.	} Quit rent, £1, N. Y. money.
A Patent to Arent Schuyler.	} Quit rent, 12 Shil. N. Y. money.
A Patent to Caudibeck, & Co.	} Quit rent, 2, N. Y. money.

James Alexander makes an estimate in 1753, of the extent of each patent on the line. He says the line in 1719, was nearly seventy-five miles, "and of these, thirty-two miles runs along the Minisink Patent, and sixteen along the Wawayanda." He then adds: "Of Minisink Patent, I own 3-46; of Cheesecocks, 7-28. As these two extend forty-eight of the seventy-five miles, I am greatly concerned in the settlement. Yet it very little concerns my particular interest whether it be as was judged in 1719, or even fifty miles lower down. I voluntarily contribute my proportion of charges in New Jersey, and pay part in New York of the public tax applied for hindering the settlement of the line."

Both States had agents in England at this time. Robert Hunter Morris was interested in the New Jersey side and Mr. Robert Charles, an Englishman, who had been

in America, was engaged on the New York side. In his public letters, Mr. Charles argues that the latitude named is not the important point in marking the north-west boundary, but "the branch of the Delaware River," and since that river above the fork is known as Fishkill, it must be below that junction. He then tries to prove that the branch intended is at Easton; this line, which many tried to establish, would make the latitude a whole degree further south. I have some private letters written by Mr. Charles to a friend in Philadelphia at this time, in which he speaks confidently of his intention to oppose the New Jersey interests in this dispute. More light is thrown on the English opposition to us in a letter written in 1756, by Governor Sir Charles Hardy, of New York. He says:

"His Majesty's interest is greatly concerned in the determination to be made. Should it be in favor of New York, his Majesty would have a great acquisition of ungranted lands that would be readily taken up, and might produce quit rents to the crown of near £2,000 sterling per annum. On the other hand, should the claim of New Jersey be confirmed, the ungranted land would fall to the Proprietors." This shows us why the New York side could not find the given point of latitude on the Delaware River as well as on the Hudson.

James Alexander died in 1756, and the New Jersey people lost in him one of their ablest and best defenders. Mr. Whitehead says: "In him the province lost one of its most intelligent, patriotic and useful citizens, to whose abilities and services justice has yet to be done in the preparation of a suitable memorial, for which there are abundant materials."

His son, Lord Stirling, takes up the plea after Mr. Alexander's death, and the petition for a speedy settlement, in 1756, gives us the names of owners of property

on the line at that time. They are Andrew Johnston, R. H. Morris, Mary Alexander, Samuel Nevill, John Burnet, James Parker, Courtland Skinner, Richard Peters (for Messrs. Penn), John Stevens, Lewis M. Ashfield, Samuel Leonard, W. Skinner and Louis Johnston.

The long asked for commission was appointed in 1767. It was composed of men of the highest standing for integrity and ability in the colonies. It was two years before they met to discuss the subject, and the interval was employed by both sides in obtaining maps and other documents essential to a proper understanding of the matter. It is said that very clear evidence was shown that the branch of Delaware intended was the Popaxtun, in latitude 41 deg., 55 sec.

Six of the thirteen commissioners met in New York July 18, 1769; in October they published their decision. They agreed that the imperfect old map had caused the trouble, but could not agree to let the latitude decide the point. Since a branch of the Delaware was intended, they decided upon the "Fork or branch formed by the junction of Mahackamack, now Neversink, with the Fish-kill or Delaware." This was in latitude forty-one degrees, twenty-one minutes, thirty-seven seconds. On the Hudson they found the required latitude, the dispute over this point had never been so serious as the other. Both States objected to this decision at first; New York insisted that it was too far north, New Jersey found it too far south. A time was named for further discussion in 1770, and it seemed as if the hopeless struggle might go on another century. But before the time named the New Jersey claimants wisely agreed that it was better to suffer the proposed loss rather than prolong the controversy. The line proposed by the Commissioners was run during the year 1770 by Anthony Dennis and James Clinton. The surveyors met with some opposition.

They were threatened by a "large body of men with clubs" August 15, but Gov. Franklin warned all persons against molesting them, and work was renewed August 21, and proceeded without further trouble. The observations of latitude were made by David Rittenhouse, of Philadelphia, with the Sextant and time-piece belonging to the Proprietors of Pennsylvania. Mr. Walter Rutherford, a son-in-law of Mr. Alexander, was one of the New Jersey Commissioners for settling the line, and he writes, July 12, 1770: "At last this line running is concluded. The patentees in general seem pleased, and I hope we shall get an end of it." The act confirming the agreement was passed by New York Assembly, February 16, 1771; by the New Jersey Legislature, September 26, 1772; both received royal approval, September 1, 1773. New Jersey was thus left with twenty miles less of river boundary on the west, and lost two hundred and ten thousand acres. The northern boundary line is forty-eight instead of the seventy-five miles claimed by James Alexander. We are obliged to make up in quality what has been lost in quantity.

Since the foregoing was written, the New Jersey State Geological Report for 1888 has been received, and it contains a clear statement of the official settlement of this question. It also gives the map of Nicholas Johannis Vischero, which caused the trouble. We find that the troublesome line had to be straightened in 1874, and the lost or broken monuments restored in 1882. We have reason to be proud of the work done in our State by Prof. George H. Cook and his able assistants. The Geological Reports each year are full of interesting matter, and the maps lately issued, under the personal supervision of Prof. Cook, are unsurpassed in their accuracy and perfection of finish.

## JAMES ALEXANDER.

**O**NE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MEN in the early history of our country was James Alexander, Surveyor-General of New Jersey. He was born in Scotland in 1691 and took an active part in the service of the Pretender. He was an officer of engineers during the attempt to sustain the Stuart cause in 1715, and after that failure Alexander, like many others, left the kingdom and came to America.

He was only twenty-four years old when he reached New York, but it is a proof of his ability that he was made Secretary of that Province the year after his arrival. While in that office he studied law and soon attained a high rank in that profession, being made Attorney-General. One historian says of him: "His profound legal knowledge, sagacity and penetration caused him to be consulted on the most important questions, and his replies were received as the answer of an oracle."

He was made Surveyor-General of New Jersey in March, 1717, also Receiver of Quit Rents of East Jersey, and Advocate-General. While Burnet was Governor of the then united provinces of New York and New Jersey, Alexander was made a member of the Provincial Council. How much land he owned at this time it is impossible to say; as member of the council he was expected to have at least one thousand acres and as Surveyor-General he had the opportunity of seeing how valuable some of the wildest parts of the new country might prove in time. He preserved the copy of a letter to England written by one of his friends in 1725; in it the writer says:

"The Jerseys is the most prolific province of any in North America, affording all the necessaries of life in great abundance and sending out vast quantities of flour, beef, pork and butter to our neighbors of New York and Pennsylvania."

A careful survey of the northern boundary line of New Jersey was ordered to be made in 1719. It is evident that the Surveyor-General took part in this, as he writes of the incidents and tells of the observations taken, as if under his personal supervision. It may be he then discovered how rich in mineral and agricultural promise were these northern hills, for from that time, he writes of the disputed boundary line as one of the owners of property. How large his tract or where it lay we cannot now tell, but the name of his wife, Mary Alexander, is found on some of the oldest deeds of land in the vicinity of Hamburg; and his son, William Alexander, sold some of the most valuable mineral tracts in the county when he was trying to obtain the title of Lord Stirling. The name of William Alexander is also found on early deeds for the ground where Morristown now stands.

While Burnet and Montgomery were Governors of the two States, Alexander held his place in the Council, and took an active part in all public affairs, but on the death of Governor Montgomery, Colonel Cosby was sent over to fill his place and there was serious trouble during the whole time of his administration. By this time, 1731, the men in office were land owners, and had become identified with the interests of the new country. Those sent over as rulers came with the hope of getting rich at the expense of the people. Governor Cosby's first official act was to demand for himself one half the fees already paid his predecessor, Rip VanDam, and in this Lewis Morris and James Alexander opposed him. Cosby, losing his case in the court, suspended Alexander from the

Council, and displaced Chief Justice Morris, who had held the office for twenty years. Both parties appealed to England, and the letters are full of personal abuse.

In a letter to England, written by Governor Cosby in 1735, he sums up Alexander's evil deeds by saying: "This man, James Alexander, has openly appeared as counsel for that treasonable printer whose seditious libels have been ordered to be burnt." This was true, and Alexander had reason to be satisfied with the part he took in that famous trial of John Peter Zenger. It was Alexander who sent for Andrew Hamilton, then a stranger in New York; and there is no more dramatic incident in our history than that scene when Court and Jury were electrified by the eloquence which won a verdict in defiance of the old law about libel, made justice triumphant, vindicated the liberty of the press, and paved the way to our future independence. Governor Cosby died in 1736; two years later Chief Justice Morris was made Governor of New Jersey, which then became a separate State, and Alexander was restored to his place in the Council.

Mr. Alexander was about thirty years old when he married the widow Provoost, a remarkable woman, who deserves special notice. Her father, John Spratt, a Scottish covenantor, went to Holland in his youth, and came thence to America. His family Bible, a noble folio volume bound in leather, with metal clasp and corners, is still preserved. In it is recorded the marriage of John Spratt with Maria DePeyster, in 1687, with births of all their children. In the same book James Alexander records his own marriage to Mary Spratt (Provoost), on January 5, 1721, and births of all their children.\* Samuel Provoost, the first husband of Mary Spratt, was a merchant, and after his death his wife continued the

\* See note at end of chapter.



business in her own name. When she married Alexander a careful marriage settlement was drawn up, guarding the interest of her Provoost children, and leaving her to continue the business while her husband attended to his many duties as an Attorney, Advocate, Surveyor and Councilor. Mrs. Alexander must have been an excellent business woman, and her position one of importance, for "Mrs. Alexander's shop," is often mentioned in the papers of that day, and she kept her "coach," an extravagance which only two other families in the young city of New York were then able to afford. The Alexanders had seven children, five grew up and married among the most noted families in the country. Mary became the wife of Peter VanBrugh Livingston; Elizabeth, of John Stevens; Catharine first married Elisha Parker, then Major Walter Rutherford; William (Lord Stirling), then married Sarah Livingston, and Susanna, the youngest daughter, married John Reid, an Englishman. Her only child, a daughter, lived in England and her letters to her aunt, Mrs. Walter Rutherford, give a graphic picture of the life of a young lady of that time; \* one is reminded of Miss Burney's *Evelina*, when they read of the ladies she meets who are "vastly genteel."

One of the last public letters of Surveyor-General Alexander is about the still unsettled boundary line between New York and New Jersey. At this time matters had grown very serious, and the property owners were in danger of personal violence. Mr. Alexander speaks strongly against the attempt on the part of New York to fix the line far below the mark decided upon in early deeds and surveys. Had he lived, the New Jersey line might have been far north of where it now is, but his death in New York, April 2, 1756, left that matter to those who had less ability and influence. His large cor-

\* See note at end of chapter.

respondence, relating as it does to our early history, has been carefully preserved, and the numerous deeds, wills and legal documents intrusted to him were properly arranged by the late W. A. Whitehead. These and the John Spratt Bible, with its quaint records in Dutch and English, form part of the "Rutherford Collection," the most valuable and interesting private collection of manuscript in this country.

\*Mr. Livingston Rutherford, the present owner of this important collection, has recently published an interesting history of the Alexander, Rutherford and Morris families entitled "Family Records and Events." The volume is a valuable contribution to our colonial history and proves that these manuscripts are in the keeping of one who can make the best use of them. One entertaining chapter is made of the letters written by Susanna Reid, from London, to Mrs. Walter Rutherford. The notes on her musical and social contemporaries bear testimony to the accuracy and ability of the editor. Mr. Rutherford says that the family records of James Alexander are not in the Spratt Bible, but another folio. See. "Family Records and Events." p. 48, by Livingston Rutherford, printed at the DeVinne Press, 1894.

## WILLIAM ALEXANDER.

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Called by courtesy, Lord Stirling.

**T**HE LIFE OF LORD STIRLING HAS BEEN written by his grandson, William Alexander Duer, and the "Stirling Papers" will be found in the library of the New York Historical society. He is therefore far better known than his father, James Alexander, but it will be interesting to trace the outline of his life to see why none of his direct descendants now own any part of the large tracts of land in Northern New Jersey which he inherited.

James and Mary Alexander had two sons ; James, the eldest, died of small pox when nine years old ; William, the second son, was born in New York city, December 27, 1725, and had the best education to be obtained there at that time. He is said to have shown a taste for mathematics in boyhood, and probably this talent enabled him to win his military honors without the training of a soldier. He spent his early life as a clerk in his mother's "shop," and as soon as he was old enough became her partner in the business. The firm had a contract for supplying the King's troops with clothing and provisions, and this brought young Alexander in contact with the officer in command. General Shirley became interested in him and made him first his private secre-

tary, afterwards his aid-de-camp, with the rank of Major. He went to England with General Shirley in 1756, and while there advanced his claim to the vacant earldom of Stirling. To understand his position, it is necessary to know more of the early history of his family.

Among the favored courtiers of King James I. of England, was one William Alexander, whom he called his "philosophical poet." The King knighted him in 1614, and in 1621 gave him a royal grant of Nova Scotia, part of New England and even Long Island included. A recent article on the subject of "Fisheries," says that the "philosophical poet" wanted to form "an incorporated company for fishing and thought Long Island specially adapted for that purpose." He soon sold his Canadian rights to the French, and lost others in speculation, but King James still continued to heap titles and honors on this Scottish "Poo Bah." He was made Secretary of State, Keeper of the Signet, Lord of Sessions, Commissary of the Exchequer, Member of the Privy Council, and in 1633 Earl of Stirling and Viscount of Canada. His title, Earl of Stirling, was held by five of his direct descendants, but they lost the lands given to him. His grandson obtained a promise of £3,500 sterling, for a release of all claims in Long Island, but the Dutch conquest of 1673, created so much confusion about the title, that James, Duke of York, was finally able to gain possession of the property without making the promised payment.

When James Alexander came to New York, in 1715, his elder brother, William, was said to be "nearest male heir to the title of Earl of Stirling," having a son William to whom it would next come. It is not probable that James Alexander ever thought it possible the title could fall to him, and it is doubtful if he would have cared for the mere name, as by that time there was no

land or money to support it. When his elder brother died, the son came to America with his sister. This was in 1747, and from letters written at that time it seems they were in search of health, and their Uncle James writes, "Wm. Alexander and his sister Kitty took lodging in Jamaica, for the benefit of the air (a place esteemed the best in this province) about twelve miles hence." Both brother and sister died at Jamaica, Long Island, September, 1747; this left William Alexander, when his father died in 1756, nearest male heir to the title.

The custom in Scotland, in case of a doubtful title, is to hold an investigation and decide by the verdict of a jury, the person entitled to succession. In 1759 this verdict was in favor of William Alexander, of New York, and he then assumed the name and title of Earl of Stirling. But to use it legally as a British subject, he must have the consent of the House of Lords. He made his petition but was obliged to leave the matter in the hands of counsel, as the death of his mother in 1760 recalled him to New York. His petition was refused and he was restricted from using the title, but this he did not regard, for he wrote his name "Stirling" for the rest of his life. He renewed his efforts to get a decision in his favor using the substantial acres his father had accumulated in New Jersey and elsewhere, to obtain the desired honor. He never won his cause, as at that time the English authorities were not well pleased with the conduct of their American colonists, and not inclined to grant any special privileges to such rebellious subjects. It is much to the credit of William Alexander that he remained loyal to the cause of his country, as no doubt his chances of winning the title he desired might have been better had he used his wealth and influence on the English side.

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Lord Stirling removed to Baskenridge, New Jersey, in 1768, and became a member of the Provincial Council. He was commissioned Colonel in the Continental Army in 1775, and raised to the rank of Brigadier-General the next year. He had command of New Jersey troops and served in various actions during the war. Congress gave a vote of thanks to "Major-General Lord Stirling," in 1779.

He married Sarah Livingston, daughter of Philip, second Lord of Livingston Manor. They had two daughters. "Lady Mary," as she was always called, married Mr. Watts; "Lady Kitty" became the wife of Mr. Duer. In 1781 Lord Stirling was placed in command of the Northern Division of the army, with headquarters at Albany. He died there of gout, January 15, 1783. As he left no son the title became extinct. But his fame rests, not on the name he spent so much to obtain, but on the fact of his being the loyal friend of Washington, and bravely defending and serving the cause of American independence.

## LEWIS MORRIS.

**T**HREE MEN BEARING THE NAME OF Lewis Morris (father, son and grandson), were prominent in public affairs in the early history of New Jersey, and held offices of importance. The early history of the family is interesting, and has been told often in lives of different members who have won distinction; also the story of the "burning castle," which is the family crest, and how they gained the motto "TANDEM VINCITUR" (at length it is conquered). This motto suggests a certain tenacity of purpose, by some called "obstinacy," which seems to be a family trait and appears in each generation. It is not here intended to write out the lives of these early ancestors of the Morris family, but to tell some characteristic stories showing how strongly marked are some family traits, and how their impulsive, energetic natures made them warm friends or formidable foes.

The first American Lewis Morris was son of Captain Richard Morris, of Cromwell's Army, who went to Barbadoes after the Restoration, and came from there to New York in 1664, with his brother Lewis. They purchased an estate of 3,000 acres in Westchester county, and on this Manor which they called Morrisania, the young Lewis was born in 1670. He, unfortunately, lost his mother when six months old and his father three

years later, and was thus left to the care of his uncle, who had no children. The boy was not easily managed. Smith, the historian, says of him, "Being a boy of strong passions, the general indication of fruitful genius, he gave frequent offence to his uncle." A story has been often told of his effort to rid himself of his tutor, Hugh Copperthwaite, a Quaker, who wanted to convert the Indians. The boy hid himself one day in the upper branches of a tall tree, and as the tutor walked below called his name three times, the tutor reverently answered, "Here am I, Lord."

"Go, preach my Gospel to the Mohawks," said the voice above.

The tutor was preparing for his mission when some one betrayed the trick. The boy was so severely punished that he rebelled and left home; wandering about, he went to Virginia for a time, then to the West Indies, where he supported himself as a "scrivener." When he tired of this life he resolved to go home, and Smith says, "His uncle received the Prodigal with joy, and to reduce him to regularity brought about his marriage with a daughter of Mr. Graham." This marriage took place in 1691, and seemed to have the desired effect as he began his public life the next year, when only twenty-two years old. He became a member of the Governor's Council in 1692; soon after that was made Judge of Common Pleas Court, in Monmouth County, New Jersey; then Second Judge of the Supreme Court in 1711, and Chief Justice in 1715. These facts prove how soon he won a high rank in his public career, but it is not the offices so much as the incidents connected with them which will show the character of the man.

When the governments of New York and New Jersey were surrendered to the Crown in 1702, Mr. Morris was President of the Council and had taken an active part in



the matter, hoping for the appointment of Governor. In this he was disappointed, as Queen Anne wanted the place for her "trusty and well beloved cousin," Lord Cornbury. The history of that time shows how disgraceful was his conduct, and Mr. Morris was the champion of the people in their effort to get rid of him. A remonstrance was drawn up which Mr. Morris was to present. Lord Cornbury sent a counter-petition denouncing Lewis Morris and Samuel Jennings as "men of turbulent, factious, uneasy, disloyal principles." In one of Lord Cornbury's letters is an allusion to a large tract of land in New Jersey, of which "Morris has lately become the owner," and after that for some years he is named Lewis Morris of "Tinton," Monmouth County, New Jersey. Cornbury was recalled in 1708, and the Queen's "well beloved cousin" was imprisoned for debt as soon as out of office. In the satisfaction of being rid of the contemptible Cornbury, Mr. Morris, ever more impulsive than prudent, sent an official address of welcome to the newly arrived Governor Lord Lovelace. The other members of the Council resented his action, and some witty person to revenge the neglected officials sent the following "all about the town by noon next day :

" As Kings att their meals sitt alone att their table,  
Not deigning to eat with the Lords or the rabble,  
So great Lewis Morris presents an address  
By himself, all alone, not one else of the mess."

This will do for a specimen, and it was followed by another in the same style. Opinions differed in the Morris party as to the notice to be taken of the these squibs. Some suggested a prosecution for libel, others that Mr. Morris should sustain his reputation as a wit

by an answer in the same strain. This he decided to do, and his answer begins :

“ As ravens and night-owls their voices betray,  
So asses are certainly known when they bray.”

These show sufficiently the spirit of the times, and that Mr. Morris was always ready to defend himself. Sometimes he was the leader of the popular party as, for instance, in 1709, while Lieutenant-Governor Ingoldsby was in office, several people testify that with one or two others Mr. Morris endeavored to persuade the “inhabitants of Amboy not to condescend to the payment of the rate-monie tax ;” and one man swears that “said Lewis Morris still gave the Governor very saucy language, upon which he ordered the constable to arrest the said Lewis Morris, but he withstood them, and would not suffer them to come nigh him.” The next day he was fined £50 and his arrest ordered for “contempt of court.” Another man was arrested with him and they were placed in a log house, the only jail near Woodbridge at the time, but their friends managed to pry the logs apart and set them free. According to the testimony in the case, they “did riotously break open, let out, and set at liberty two prisoners, viz : Lewis Morris and George Willocks.”

His life from 1709 to 1730 seems to have been free from public contests. Governor Hunter was one of his best friends, and Governor Burnet seemed on good terms with him, but the coming of Colonel Cosby as Governor brought about another violent dispute. Cosby resented a decision made against him by the Chief Justice, and displaced him, writing long letters to the English authorities in defence of the act. One fault of which he accuses Chief Justice Morris is, that when a day was appointed for an interview, “Mr. Morris chose that very

day to goe from his house in New Jersey to New York, without soe much as writing me a line of excuse." Morris is also accused of uniting with James Alexander and Rip Van Dam in "holding secret meetings with treasonable intent." The greatest fault of all is that the Chief Justice "delayed justice by not appearing in Court at the appointed hours, thereby keeping the lawyers awaiting his pleasure, and the irregular sittings are due to his pride in making the world wait his leisure, and his intemperate drinking, in which he often spends whole nights." This is not all. In the same long letter he says he has been told that on one occasion, when the Chief Justice lay in bed, some lawyers went to discover the cause of his absence and "he took up his fiddle and played the company a tune." These serious charges show clearly enough Governor Cosby's dislike of Mr. Morris, but they received a very short answer; the King refusing to sanction the removal as "the reasons set forth are not good and sufficient." It is evident that had Governor Cosby had a decision in his own favor the Chief Justice might have played as many tunes as he liked. All the absurd charges were not believed. Mr. Morris had been twenty years in office, and kept these and other places of importance for the rest of his life.

The matter was no sooner settled than another contest arose, in which Mr. Morris took a prominent part advocating with all his energy the separation of New Jersey from New York. It was accomplished two years after Governor Cosby's death. New Jersey became a separate State in 1738, with Lewis Morris as first Governor. He was then sixty-eight years old and had been in public life for forty-five years. It was a second nature by this time to try to control affairs. Many years before it was said of him that "Tho' indolent in the man-

agement of his private affairs, yet, through love of power, he was always busy in matters of a political nature, and no man in the colony equalled him in knowledge of the law and the arts of intrigue." He had been living in Morrisania for some years, but to hold his place as Governor he was obliged to leave that beautiful home and rent a farm near Trenton, which he called "Kingsbury." Here he spent eight years as Governor, and here breathed his last May 21, 1746. He desired to be buried at Morrisania, in a plain coffin, with no funeral sermon; it was also his wish that no mourning rings or scarfs should be given, or mourning worn for him, saying in his will, "I die when I should die, and no one ought to mourn because I do so, but may mourn to pay the shop keeper for his goods, should they comply with (what I think) the common folly of such an expense."


Governor Morris had twelve children; some died young, but two sons and six daughters survived him. Mary married Captain Vincent Pearse, of the Royal Navy; Euphemia married Captain Matthew Norris, son of Sir John Norris; Anne married Edward Antill, of Ross Hall, Raritan, N. J.; Elizabeth married Colonel Anthony White; Margaret and Arabella were the two youngest daughters, one married Mr. Graham, and the other died unmarried. His two sons, Lewis and Robert Hunter, were both in public life. Lewis, the second, will be the subject of the next sketch. Robert Hunter, named for Governor Hunter, had in a marked degree the prominent traits of the Morris character. He was early made a member of the Council and became Chief Justice when his father was appointed Governor. He was also for a short time Governor of Pennsylvania, and spent a few years in England at one time to use his personal influence in aid of American affairs. His residence was at "Tinton," Monmouth County, N. J., which estate

was left to him by his father. From all accounts he seems to have been a genial, good-natured man, of the type generally called "a good fellow." A letter of his lies before me written from "Tinton," January, 1763, the first part is about the sale of some land; then he says he will send a "slay" to Philadelphia for the claret as the wine will be less shaken; then adds "I am about building a 'slay' and propose to line it with bearskins, if I can get 'em." He also asks if one of his young lady nieces, "Molly or Kitty will choose me some cambrick for ruffling;" then adds, "If you were not the laziest of all lazy fellows, the extraordinary goodness of the season would have induced you to mount your nag, and shown the 'bucks' Penn and Allen the way to Tinton, but you knew there was no claret here so had no temptation."\*

Robert Hunter Morris never married, and his death, which took place in 1764, was a singular one. It is thus described in Smith's history; "He had a cousin living at Shrewsbury, N. J., who was wife of the clergyman of the parish. On the evening of the 27th of January there was a dance in the village at which all the respectable families of the neighborhood were present. The Chief Justice led out the clergyman's wife, danced down six couples, and then without a word, or a groan, or a sigh, fell dead on the floor." Mr. Smith adds, "Unhappy New Jersey has lost her best ornament."

\*This letter is written to Thomas Lawrence, of Philadelphia, who married a niece of Robert Hunter Morris, in 1743, and the "bucks" (we would call them now "swells"), were Richard Penn and James Allen, who married two of Mr. Lawrence's cousins.

## LEWIS MORRIS, II.

 HE SECOND LEWIS MORRIS WAS THE eldest son of Governor Morris, and was born September 23, 1698, at his father's New Jersey residence, Tinton, Monmouth County. It seems strange to compare a map printed in 1777 with one of to-day, and see on the former the name of Tinton as the only place between the town of Shrewsbury and the Shark river; no Long Branch or Red Bank is found there, while on our present maps we look in vain for the forgotten name of Tinton. The young Lewis Morris, following the example of his father, entered public life when twenty-four years old, becoming a member of the Governor's Council 1725. He held office until displaced by Governor Montgomery for some words considered disrespectful. The story is told in one of Governor Cosby's letters, who took every possible chance of showing his extreme dislike for Chief Justice Morris. His words are: "Those insolent papers which the son then read, were, it seems, drawn up by his father."

Lewis Morris, Jr., as he was then called, was chosen Speaker of the New York Assembly in 1737, where he remained until 1746. In Mrs. Lamb's History of New York is the following description of him: "He was exceedingly unlike his father, the Governor of New Jersey, had less forensic ability, rarely indulged in offensive sarcasm and possessed great suavity of manner with genuine humor. As a politician he was very self-reliant,

equal to any emergency, and his pluck almost reached audacity. What he once maintained he would never abandon or lay aside for an instant." This proves that he had much of the tenacity of purpose which is characteristic of the Morris family, but the suavity of manner alluded to enabled him to avoid the public contests in which his father often was involved by his more impulsive nature.

The most important office held by Lewis Morris, Jr., was that of Judge of the Court of Admiralty, to which he was appointed in 1738; it gave him jurisdiction in all maritime affairs in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. His public life belonged more to New York than New Jersey, but in 1743 he is named among those who met to discuss the settlement of the boundary line between the two States, and in his allusion to property he speaks as if his interests were on the New Jersey side. On this occasion he had a dispute with Mr. John McEvers, who, as the report says, "grew very warm and declared he had sold lands down to what he looked upon to be the division line, and had received the money, and would never agree to any other line." Mr. Morris contended that "the map produced by McEvers was not a true one; that it had been made on purpose to deceive and tempt ignorant people to purchase Jersey lands from New York patentees." Like most councils convened to discuss this subject the report ends with: "After this there was much talk to little purpose when they agreed to meet again."

In one history of the time Judge Morris is spoken of as "a handsome man with great gifts in repartee and singularly entertaining in society," and in another, a remarkable head covering is thus described: "Instead of a hat he used to wear upon his head a loon's skin, (a large American fowl) with all its feathers." This shows

a disregard for appearances, which is one of the prominent traits of the Morris family ; they consult comfort and convenience, seldom, if ever, conforming to custom or fashion.

Mr. Morris was married in 1723 to Catharine, daughter of Dr. Samuel Staats, of Albany, New York. The wife of Dr. Staats was an East Indian Princess, or "Begum," to whom he was married in Java\*. Her six daughters were all married to prominent Americans. The Staats family were of Dutch descent, and in that language the name of Catharine was written then "Katrintje." There is a curious Dutch prayer book that once belonged to Katrintje Staats in which her husband has written these records on a blank leaf :

"Lewis Morris, Jr., of Morrisania, was married to Katrintje Staats, daughter of Dr. Samuel Staats, ye 17th day of March, 1723, at New York, by Dr. Vesey."

"Mary Morris was born ye 1st day of November, 1724, at half an hour after one of ye clock in ye morning. Christened by Dr. Bartow ; godfather, my father ; godmothers, my mother and Sister Coejmans."

"Lewis Morris was born ye 8th day of April, 1726, at half an hour after ten of ye clock at night ; was christened by Robert Jenny ; godfathers, Mr. Coejmans and Captain Vincent Pearse ; godmother, Sister Gouverneur."

There are no more records in this little book, but Mr. Morris had a large family and the Bible with full list of his children is owned by one of his descendants in New York city. He died at his home, Morrisania, where he had spent most of his life, on the 3d of July, 1762.

His eldest daughter, Mary, whose birth is recorded in the little prayer book, married Thomas Lawrence, of Philadelphia.

\* See note at end of chapter.



Lewis, the eldest son, will be the subject of the next sketch. Richard, the second son, married Sarah Ludlow and lived at Scarsdale, New York, but owned land and held office in New Jersey. He was grandfather of the late Judge Richard R. Morris, of Sparta, whose children still reside in Sussex County. Staats Long Morris, the third son, went to England and purchased a commission in the British Army, where he rose to the rank of General. He married the Dowager Duchess of Gordon, and, although strongly opposed to the idea of American independence, he brought his wife to this country after the war to visit his family.

Mr. Morris lost his first wife and was married a second time to Sarah Gouverneur and had other children, the most distinguished was his youngest son, Gouverneur, who was one of the framers of our constitution, and our Minister to France in 1789.

\*This Begum tradition cherished in the family and clearly stated in many histories is proved incorrect by the baptismal records of old Dutch Church, New York as reprinted in "New York Genealogical and Biographical Record." When each child is baptised the parents' names given are Samuel Staats and Johanna Rhynders.

When searching for evidence on this subject, I wrote of the discovery of Dutch Church records, to Edwin Lassiter Bynner, author of "The Begum's Daughter." In answer, Oct., 1889, he said it was "a great shock" to him as he had relied on statements made in :

"Lamb's History of New York," p. 434; "Pearson's First Settlers of Albany," p. 105; "Munsell's Coll. of Hist. of Albany," p. 168; "Valentine's Manual, 1864," p. 613; "New Jersey His. Soc. Coll., 1882," p. 114.

All these say Dr. Staats was with Prince of Orange, in Holland, and married in Java. But on the other side, is this note from Isaac Gouverneur's family Bible: "Died, my father-in-law, Dr. Samuel Staats, Sept. 27th, 1715, aged 58 years." If these figures are correct, he was only 21 when he married Johanna Rhynders, at Albany, and it makes the previous marriage and political career quite impossible.

### LEWIS MORRIS, III.

**T**HE THIRD LEWIS MORRIS IS BEST remembered because his name is on that honored list attached to our Declaration of Independence. He was born at Morrisania, April 8, 1726, and graduated at Yale College in the class of 1746. Although like his grandfather and father in character and disposition, he did not, like them, enter public life on reaching manhood, but devoted himself to improving and developing the Morrisania estate. But he was not destined to live a quiet and peaceful life, for it was his fate to see his beautiful home almost destroyed by reckless soldiers. The men of that time had a momentous question to decide. It is hard for us now to realize how many good reasons existed on the side of loyalty to their acknowledged King, and how fearful to many seemed the responsibility of defying the most powerful nation in Europe.

Mr. Morris was one of the New York delegates to the Continental Congress of 1775, and the situation of his Morrisania estate placed him in a most unfortunate position. A portion of the army had been quartered in Westchester County, and the soldiers took all the vegetables, fruit and grain they could lay hands on. Before going to Philadelphia Mr. Morris was obliged to make some provision for the comfort of his family; he therefore purchased some land in Sussex County, New Jersey, of Isaac Sharp, and sent his slaves to cultivate it and carry the produce to his home in Westchester Coun-

ty The tract of land thus taken was in Wantage Township, about a mile from Hamburg, on the Deckertown road ; and the log house built by his men was on the site of the present farm house near the Wallkill bridge.

While the British soldiers were stealing all they could find on the Morrisania estate the young ladies of the family were taking revenge by stealing the hearts of the British officers in the drawing-room. An evidence of the mischief done in that way has been preserved but never printed. A young officer fell in love with Miss Kitty Morris, and when ordered to Boston later he wrote some verses to the young lady, in which he contrasts his present surroundings with the happy days he had spent near her home. The lines are dated from "Camp on Bunker Hill, August 9, 1775," and, after a description of the warlike scenes about him, he thus alludes to Morrisania :

" Far different this from that much envy'd seat  
Where beauty and each social virtue meet.  
Where only peace and happiness appear,  
Content, with mirth, and hospitable cheer,  
Far different this from that delightful scene.

" The cooling stream, the grassy, vested green,  
The breezy covert of the shady grove,  
The rock that echoed with the songs of love ;  
Great Heavens ! Where'er I turn my wandering eyes  
What horrid scenes of desolation rise !

\* \* \* \* \*

" Why has my heart this fond attachment known,  
And why has Heaven dissolved the tie so soon ?

\* \* \* \* \*

" But soon I hope some friendly rebel's blow  
Will set me free from every ill below."

\* \* \* \* \*

This shows not only the feelings of the young man,

but gives us a glimpse of the life they all led a few months earlier, when no one thought the war would amount to anything, and the young ladies and officers amused themselves in "the shady grove" and at the "rock that echoed with songs of love." The fate of the young officer is not known, but his verses were preserved and carefully copied by the gentleman who was married to the young lady a few years later.

The next year came the decision of that question which, John Adams said, was "the most important that had ever been discussed in civil or political society." Public opinion was growing stronger in favor of independence, but when the first resolution was proposed, June 7, 1776, it met with violent opposition. Mr. Livingston, of New York, spoke against it, and the discussion was postponed for three weeks to enable the members to get instructions from the States. What long, dusty rides those men must have taken in the hot summer days. The New Jersey delegates were recalled and new men sent to vote in favor of separation. Mr. Morris and Mr. Livingston were sent back with their instructions also in favor of the motion. We all know now that the resolution was passed, after three days debate, on that memorable July 4th, but not signed on that day. Bancroft says: "The general signing of the parchment copy took place on August 2d." Many stories are told in connection with the signing; how John Hancock said: "There! John Bull may read my name without spectacles;" and Franklin: "We must hang together or else most assuredly we shall all hang separately," and the Morris family have their special tradition also. It is said that Mr. Morris had, on that day, a letter from his brother, Gen. Staats Morris, of the British army, who begged him "not to take so rash a step; to think of the consequences."

"Damn the consequences, give me the pen!" was the impetuous and characteristic Morris answer.

The Morris family were obliged to leave their home during the war; it is said that one of the young ladies saved her father's books by carrying them across the river in a boat, and that a shot was fired at her. The place was much injured during the contest and when the family returned after the war it took many years of hard work to restore it, but it was the occupation most congenial to Colonel Morris (as he was always called), although no mention is made of his having served in the army.\* The only public duty undertaken by him after the war was serving in the legislature to which he was elected; with that exception he spent the rest of his life at Morrisania, and died there Jan. 22, 1798. His letters during the last ten years of his life show his love for his home and the interest he took in all that concerned his estate.

His wife was Mary Walton, of the well-known Walton family, of New York. They had four daughters and six sons. The eldest daughter, Mary, married her cousin Thomas Lawrence, of Philadelphia, in 1775, but lived only a year after, and in 1778 Mr. Lawrence wished to marry her sister, Catharine Morris; it is said that when he asked his uncle's consent to the second alliance, he was asked if he meant "to marry the whole family!" But Mr. Morris gave his consent, and when, after the war, Mr. Lawrence lost his property in Philadelphia, his father-in-law offered him the Morrisvale farm, as the place in Sussex County was called. The family came there in 1787. Mrs. Lawrence had six little children with her and one of them, who lived to old age, told

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\* Colonel Morris was in command of the Westchester County Militia, and served under General Washington in 1778. See, "Family Records and Events," by Livingston Rutherford, p. 214.

often the story of that long and tiresome ride on the rough mountain road from Paterson. In 1800 Mr. Lawrence purchased the Morrisvale farm, and before that bought more land in Hamburgh, where he built a house on higher ground.

Sarah, third daughter of Colonel Lewis Morris, died unmarried; Magdelena (or Helena) the youngest, married Mr. John Rutherford, of Edgerston, N. J., who owned more property in this State than any other one person.

Lewis, the eldest son, married Ann Elliott, of South Carolina, where they spent part of every year.

Jacob, the second son, married Mary Cox, and lived at "The Butternuts," Otsego County, N. Y.

William married Sarah Carpenter, and lived at Ballston Springs, N. Y.


Staats married Catalina VanBraeme.

James married Helen VanCourtlandt, and lived at Pelham, Westchester County, N. Y.

Richard Valentine married Anne Walton, and lived at Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

As Colonel Morris had fifty-nine grandchildren it is not surprising that so many can now claim direct descent from Lewis Morris, the signer of the Declaration.

## JOHN RUTHERFURD.

 HE LARGEST LAND OWNER IN SUSSEX County at the beginning of this century, was John Rutherford, of Edgerston, on the Passaic river. His father, Major Walter Rutherford, son of Sir John Rutherford, of Edgerston, in Scotland, came to America in 1756. He was then a Captain in the British Army, having seen much active service both in the army and navy. At the surrender of Montreal the keys were delivered to him and he served as Paymaster and Judge-Advocate, first with the rank of Captain, afterwards as Major. He left the army soon after his marriage with Catharine, daughter of James Alexander, Surveyor-General of New Jersey.

Their only son, John, was born in New York, September, 1760. He inherited much property in New York and New Jersey. His grandfather, the Surveyor-General, and his father, Major Rutherford, had taken up land with the belief that it would become valuable, and the management of this property, with the attention required by his many public offices, made his life a busy one. He was admitted to the New York bar in 1781, and was also the clerk of the vestry of Trinity church, having in charge much of that valuable property. In 1787 he removed to Tranquility, then in Sussex County, New Jersey, and was elected to the New Jersey Legislature in 1788; in 1790 he was sent to the United States Senate, where he served two terms.

From 1804 to 1840 he was president of the New Jersey Board of Proprietors, and in 1826 was one of the commissioners to settle the disputed line between New Jersey and New York. From 1801 to 1811 he was engaged with Gouverneur Morris and Simeon DeWitt in laying out New York city above 14th street. To be nearer New York he removed in 1808 to his place on the Passaic, called "Edgerston," after his father's home in Scotland. He married Magdalena, daughter of Lewis Morris, of Morrisania, New York. This Lewis Morris was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and his home in Westchester County was often within the British lines, therefore not a safe residence for his family during the war. They removed to "Society Hall," somewhere in New Jersey. A letter before me, written to the bride before her marriage, is directed to "Society Hall, at the foot of Sowerland Mountain, N. J." \*

Miss Morris was known to her family as Helena or Lena, and her father-in-law, with the courtly gallantry of that day, sent her the following at the time of her marriage :

"A compliment to Mrs. Helena Rutherford, wrote by her father-in-law, on the occasion of her marriage at Society Hall, October 30. 1782.

" Such Grecian Helen was, blame not the boy  
Who in so bright a flame consum'd old Troy,  
But if, like modern Helen, she had been  
Virtuous, as fair, Troy ne'er the flame had seen,  
A different fate may Jersey Helen's prove.  
And charms and worth be blest with mutual love."

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\* Prof. George H. Cook wrote me in 1889, that this mountain, now written "Sourland," is in Hunterdon County. See also interesting account of the Morris and other families in Lebanon Valley during the Revolution, "Family Records and Events," p. 124.



Mr. Rutherford died at his home, Edgerston, New Jersey, February 23, 1840. He had six children ; his only son, Robert, married his cousin, Sabina Morris, and their eldest son John, named for his grandfather, inherited most of his Sussex County property. The second son, Mr. Lewis Rutherford, still owns the Tranquility farm now in Warren County.

Besides the large amount of land owned by Mr. Rutherford at the time of his death, the following advertisement shows that he sold between three and four thousand acres in January, 1800 :

### FOR SALE.

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THE FOLLOWING FARMS AND TRACTS OF LAND IN SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

1. A tract of land in Newton, about two miles northeast of the Court House, containing 866 acres and divided into five farms, which are in the occupation of Isaac Sharp, Jacob Shieler, and Peter Space, jun., Jonathan M'Peck and Andrew Scott.

2. A farm in Newton, about three miles southwest of the Court House, in the occupation of David Lash, and containing 157 acres.

3. A tract of land in Frankford, about eight miles from the Court House, and adjoining Colonel Anthony Broderick's farm, containing 675 acres and divided into four farms, in the occupation of Michael Pough, Albert Acher, John Force and Thomas Ferrigo.

4. A tract of land in Wantage, about two miles from Deckertown and the Low Dutch Church, in the occupation of John VanRiper, Hugh Kirkpatrick, Peter Kinney and others, containing 940 acres.

5. A farm in Wantage, near Peppocoting, in the occupation of Jacob Henn, containing 150 acres.

6. A tract of land in Vernon, about four miles from Warwick, in the State of New York, occupied by David Alyea, Levi Ellis, Thaddeus Dickson and Amos Phillips.

7. A farm in Vernon, about three miles from Hamburgh, in the occupation of Ezekiel Youmans, containing 324 acres.

8. A tract of land on the Wallkill, near Sparta church, in the occupation of Benjamin Chamberlayne and others.

9. A farm on the Drowned Lands, called Flat Island, containing 250 acres, in the occupation of Abraham Osborne.

The above tracts of land will be sold entire, or in separate farms, as will best suit the purchaser. There are on some of the above mentioned farms, fine bearing orchards, good wheat land, and excellent Timothy meadows—All of them are situated in a well settled, thriving part of the State—most of them in the neighborhood of places of public worship, grist mills, stores, and several of them contiguous to an extensive wood range for cattle.

Easy terms of payment and long credit will be given if required. For further particulars enquire of Thomas Lawrence, Esq., Hamburgh; Thomas Anderson, Esq., Newton, or the subscriber in Trenton, who will give an indisputable right to the purchaser.

JOHN RUTHERFURD.

January 21, 1800.

47-4W.

NOTE, 1894.—The life and letters of this John Rutherford will be found in the book written by his great-grandson Livingston Rutherford. See "Family Records and Events," p. 200.

## THOMAS LAWRENCE, OF PHILADELPHIA. (1689-1754.)

**I**T IS DIFFICULT TO WRITE A FAMILY history when one finds seven generations, each having an eldest son named Thomas Lawrence. It would take more time and space than is desirable to give, however briefly, a biography of each one on this list, so I shall choose from it three who best represent the times wherein they lived. These are Thomas Lawrence, of Philadelphia, grandson of the first of our name in America ; Thomas, his grandson, who came first to Morrisvale, Sussex County, and his grandson, the late Thomas Lawrence, of Hamburg, whose recent loss still casts a shadow on the home he loved.

In the early part of last century, this Thomas Lawrence, whom we call the Councillor, was an influential merchant in the city of Philadelphia.\* Like all energetic, earnest men of our colonial times, he took an active interest in public affairs and his official life can be read in the State and city records. From these we learn that he was a member of the Common Council in 1722, Alderman, 1724, and Mayor of the city for the first time in 1727. To this office he was elected five times, holding it at the time of his death, in 1754.

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\*See "Colonial Days and Dames," by Anne Hollingsworth Wharton, p. 18.

When the plan of the present State House was agreed upon, Thomas Lawrence, then Mayor, was one of the building committee. This was in 1728, and in 1735, when it was finished, he was again in office.

The title of "Councillor" belongs to him as one of Penn's Provincial Council, "a distinguished body, the members holding their seats for life, being the wealthiest, most experienced in public affairs, and most influential persons in the Colony."\* To this Council he was nominated by Governor Gordon, taking his seat May 10, 1728.

In September, 1745, Councillor Lawrence was one of the Pennsylvania Commissioners to treat with the Six Indian Nations at Albany; and in January, 1748, Benjamin Franklin recommends him as "a fine person and man of influence," for the position of "Lieut.-Col. of Associate Regiment of Foot." This is not the only place where we find his name in connection with Franklin's. Both were interested in Christ church, and in 1752 they are foremost among the managers of a lottery scheme to raise money for a "set of bells" by the "sale of 4,500 tickets at four pieces of eight each, tickets to be sold by the managers at their respective dwellings." In 1749, this Thomas Lawrence, Esq., is one of a commission to draft a charter for this church of which he was junior warden as early as 1722.

All his children were baptised at Christ church as we learn from a little book of records in the handwriting of the Councillor, which was preserved for nearly a century in the family of his second son, Judge John Lawrence, and has now come into the possession of the descendants of his eldest son Thomas. This little note book gives his own family record, and we find that he was born in New York, September 4, 1689. The mar-

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\* See "Kieth's Provincial Councillors of Penn.

riage of his father to Catharine Lewis in 1687, and births of all their children are also found in the old Dutch Church records of New York. There we discover that the grandfather of Councillor Lawrence came to that city from the town of Groningen in Holland, was admitted to church membership in 1662, and married to the widow of Cornelius Langevelt, June 9, 1663.

We know that the Councillor's family used the arms of a French family of Lawrence, and in 1882, Major J. H. Lawrence Archer of the English Army, a descendant of Lawrence Lawrence, youngest brother of the Councillor, discovered that one Adolphus Lawrence, Burgo Meister of Groningen, 1660, used similar arms. But not until a search has been made in the records of that place can the question of our family origin be definitely settled.

In the little autograph book Councillor Lawrence thus records his own marriage: "1719 ye 25th of May, I, Thomas Lawrence, was marryd to Rachael Longfield, at Raritan, by Parson Vaughn. Present our parents, I convened John Spratt, Thomas Clark and Richard Ashfield.\*

This is followed by births and baptisms of all his children, giving not only the day but hour and minute of birth. It was the usual custom of that time and no doubt comes from the old fashion of casting horoscopes when the exact position of stars at the time must be carefully noted.

Many other interesting items are found in these pages. Here is one about his children: "1730, January 11th. My daughter Mary was Taken with Small-pox. Ye 12th

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\*John Spratt was son of John Spratt and Maria DePeyster, p. 15. Richard Ashfield, one of New Jersey Proprietors, is recommended to Duke of Newcastle for place in New Jersey Council by Lewis Morris, "Archives of New Jersey," Vol. V., p. 317.

Do, My son John Spratt ; Ye 16th, My son Thomas ; and are all Recovered having Each had a Large Share of this Distemper, particular John, who had Convulsion fits and never closed his Eyes for 56 hours at which time his Life was Despaired of."

Another note about his son "particular John" is in 1739 where he writes thus : "May 12th, My son John went to London by way of Lisbon ; Sayled from ye Capes ye 24th, on Thursday."

With the autograph record, we have also copies of letters kept by the Councillor, and some that he had received. From these we learn the extent of his commercial correspondence ; that he was in communication with every port then open to American commerce. We also discover that he was in business in Philadelphia as early as 1720 from a letter to Samuel Storke, a London merchant, January, 1747. He says : "the loss of your good father deprives me of a truly valuable correspondent after twenty-seven years of considerable dealings." Mention is also made in this letter of his son Thomas, who had at that time entered into partnership with Edward Shippen and the new firm, Shippen & Lawrence is recommended to Storke & Champion.

Business letters at this time are apt to contain something of political and personal opinions. The sad state of affairs in New Jersey give the old gentleman great concern. In 1752 he writes to a Mrs. Helby, in London, whose property he has in charge : "The rebellious inhabitants are so numerous, and favoured by some in power that they do as they please without control. The villians came to me to buy lands. I asked them forty pounds a hundred acres, they said they'd give fifteen pounds and no more. In Oct. last they surveyed this very land as vacant, returned the survey and took possession. There is hardly common justice to be had in

Jersey, the people are all so corrupted."

Full particulars of these New Jersey riots are published in the archives of New Jersey. Poor Governor Belcher found his new position difficult. He writes to a friend in 1747: "I am come to a fine Climate and a plentiful Country but to a Government of little profit to a Governor."

In these business letters of the Councillor are frequent commissions for himself and family. To Thomes Willing, of London, he writes March, 1752: "The enclosed is a long invoice of small things," and adds, "the Brass must be of the best quality and newest fashion to adorn a chest of Drawers for my own use." He then thanks Mr. Willing for the addition of "the Tulips & Carnation Roots" saying, "I am obliged for your singular desire to please me in these few particulars." In August, 1753, he sends another commission to Willing & Caldwell: "I have only now to ask you to send seventeen yards of Lemon collour'd Poudesway! with silver cuffing and robing thereto, for the service of my daughter, and for myself, half an ounce of Colly-flour seed, and half an ounce Brocolie seed."

In a letter to Christopher Gadsden, of Charleston, S. C.,\* who was reared in his counting house in Philadelphia, he sends a commission that sounds as singular to-day as the lottery for the church bells. "March 18th, 1753. This encloses a receipt of Capt. Abercrombie for a negro man named 'Will,' who I desire you to dispose

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\*CHRISTOPHER GADSDEN (1724-1805)—An American statesman, whose father lost his estate in play and the son engaged in mercantile business to recover it. At the beginning of our Revolution he was a man of wealth and influence in South Carolina, and among the first to resist British oppression. Was delegate to first Continental Congress, 1774; and served with distinction during the war. Declined election as Governor of South Carolina, 1782. Appleton's *Cyclopedia*, Vol. VII, p. 551.

of on account of John Knight and myself, and remit the net proceeds in sole leather." He explains that this man had been married to a slave given his daughter-in-law and became so violent from jealousy that she was now afraid of him.

Some of his correspondence with his English friends George and Robert Charles,\* are published in the Pennsylvania Historical Magazine July, 1883. One of the last letters in the book of copies is written to Robert Charles by the Councillor's eldest son Thomas, announcing the death of his father on April 20, 1754. Of this "particular and intimate friend," he asks "a suitable inscription to be placed on the vault lately made in Christ Church Yard."

This vault is still to be seen but the words can no longer be read. It was transcribed, however, about thirty years ago by one of the church wardens, Mr. Edward Clark, and appears thus in his book of "Christ Church Inscriptions."

IN MEMORY OF

THOMAS LAWRENCE, ESQ.,

AN EMINENT MERCHANT ;

A FAITHFUL COUNCILLOR ;

AN ACTIVE MAGISTRATE ;

Whose private virtues endeared him to his friends ; whose public conduct gained him respect and esteem. Expecting everlasting life, he departed this, during his fifth Mayoralty of this City, Aged 64 years.

MDCCLIV.

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\*George Charles was Head Master, of St. Paul's School, London. Robert Charles was Secretary to Admiral Sir Peter Warren, and Agent of New York affairs in London.



THOMAS LAWRENCE, OF MORRISVALE.  
(1745-1823.)

**A**LL READERS OF COLONIAL HISTORY know that Philadelphia was the gayest and wealthiest city in America during the last century, and from the death of Councillor Lawrence to the beginning of the Revolution was the most brilliant period of our family history. The three children who recovered from small-pox were the only ones who survived him and his large fortune was divided among them.

Mary, the only daughter, was the wife of William Masters, owner of a large estate in the city, and her two daughters, Polly and Sally, were among the belles of that day. One needs access to the social annals of the time to do justice to this gay period. Only one little piece of gossip has been preserved here in a note book, showing how the young men discussed the matrimonial affairs of the ladies. The free use of capital letters makes each statement look more impressive.

"January 27th, 1771. This Day Betted with Mr. Ball, at James Byrnes, that Mr. Lambert Cadwalader would not be married to Miss Polly Masters in two years from the above Date. An Hogshead of Claret against a Quarter Cask of the best Maderia Wine. The conditions of the Bet are that if I should lose the Wager, Mr. Cadwalader is to pay for the Claret.

Thos. Lawrence, Jr."

Mr. Cadwalader never paid for the claret as Miss Polly Masters married Richard Penn in 1772,\* and her sister Sally went to London with her during the Revolution, where she married Turner Camac, in 1795. Her descendants are still found in Philadelphia.

Judge John Lawrence (1724-1799), second son of Councillor, was educated in England and made a brilliant legal record in his native city during these days of prosperity. Like his father and brother, he was Common Councilman, Alderman and Mayor, also a Judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. His wife was a daughter of Hon. Tench Francis, and his only child married first, James Allen,† second, Judge John Lawrance,‡ of New York.

Thomas Lawrence (1720-1775), the Councillor's eldest son, inherited the family estate called Claremont, in "Northern Liberties of Philadelphia." Living in this beautiful home with his wife, Mary Morris, to whom he was married in 1743, he saw his children grow up and most of them marry before the financial troubles brought on by the Revolution, wrecked the family fortunes. In partnership with Edward Shippen, his career as a merchant was prosperous and, like most of the business men of that day, he had his share of official duties. In 1748 he was in the Common Council, Alderman in 1755, and Mayor, 1758 and 1764. The marriage of his eldest daughter is mentioned in the "Franklin Letters."

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\*Lieutenant-Governor of Pennsylvania and Provincial Councillor.

† James Allen, son of Chief Justice Allen, grandson of Andrew Hamilton.

‡ Judge John Lawrance, member of Continental Congress; Aid-de-Camp to Gen. Washington, and Judge Advocate of Court that tried Major Andre.

Sally Franklin writes to her father, who is travelling in France with Sir John Pringle, in 1765, that the only news is the wedding of Kitty Lawrence to Gen. John Shee.\*

Rachael, second daughter, married John Marston, of New York.†

Mary, the youngest, married later Warren DeLancey.

Thomas, the eldest son, married, in 1768, Rebecca, daughter of the well known Dr. Thomas Bond. John, married a daughter of Gen. Arthur St. Clair, and William, a Miss Ricketts, of Elizabethtown, N. J.

With the death of Thomas Lawrence, of Claremont, in January, 1775, the family trials began. The home could not be maintained by the widow on her reduced income, although all her children gave up their claims in her favor. The luxuries of these years of affluence are shown in the old receipts kept by his executors. "Two Lace Aprons and Cloaks imported from France" are charged to Mrs. Lawrence and Miss Molly for £365-14-0; also "a Sattin Gown." But tax bills soon become startling in their figures, although continental money was then almost worthless. In 1779 one monthly tax is £175; the next year it is £312 in June and £312-18-0 in October, 1780. Useful things like wood must be paid for and here is one bill:

3½ cords of wood (Hickory)	£280 pr. c'd	£ 875
7 " " (Oak)	£160 " "	£ 1,120
		£ 1,995

These things show why the home had to be sold and in a few years none of the name were left in the City of Philadelphia.

\* See Keith's Provincial Councillors.

† See New York Gen. and Bio. record, Vol. 25, p. 131.

It was necessary to explain the changes in this generation to understand the position in which Thomas (1754-1823), first son of the family and eldest grandson of Councillor, was placed. His first wife died in 1771, leaving two daughters, and in 1775 he married his cousin, Mary Morris, who died a year later, leaving an infant son. In 1778 he married her sister, Catherine,\* who, with his two older daughters and a family of little children, came with him to the new home among the mountains of New Jersey. After leaving Philadelphia they lived a short time on a farm near Princeton, then in New York, where, from 1784 to 1787, Mr. Lawrence was in partnership with Robert Morris. This also proved a failure and in 1787, Lewis Morris, his father-in-law, offered him the farm in Sussex county called Morrisvale.† Very thankful they were for this place of refuge, but the long drive over the rough mountain road was the beginning of the trials that lay before them.

From this time the story of our ancestor is written by himself in the record of his daily work. His accounts are kept with such accuracy and precision that one can learn from them the yield of every acre and compare the methods and results of a century ago with the farming of to-day. Here is the unique preface of his day-book for 1888 :

"Day book of Thos. Lawrence respecting his Transactions in Sussex Co., commencing Feb. 1788, and which is hereafter to be produced in Evidence in case of Dispute. This method and correctness is rendered essentially necessary from the present disposition of the inhabitants of the County in general being extremely fond of Litigation."

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\* See p. 36.

† See p. 36.

The following item gives some idea of the wages then paid :

- "1788, M'ch 15th. Wm. Havens & Jo's Nelson worked two days on the road for me last Summer at 1 Bu. Buckwheat per day. This day paid them the same.
- "1790, Jan. 11th. Monday. This day Samuel Veal came to work with me, on tryal for a month at the rate of 30 shillings pr. month, to be found in Board, Washing and Mending.
- "1790, Monday, Aug. 2nd. Levi Husted & ——— Morehouse came here to mow in the Big Meadow, at 4s. pr. day and a Pint of Rum.
- " Tuesday, Aug. 3rd. To-day it Rains and Husted & Morehouse went away."

We find that Samuel Veal stayed over a year, and went to school, from the following :

- "1791, Wednesday, M'ch 2nd. Samuel Veal goes to G. Ludlum's store to-day on his own business.
- " Monday, " 21st. Dr. Samuel Veal for cash paid Mr. Wickham for his schooling, 7s. 6d.
- " " " Dr. Samuel Veal, for 1 lb. Candles supplied him at the School, 1s.

Some quotations from this book will give an idea of his "method and correctness."

- "1778, Sept. 3rd. This day began to plough the Summer Fallow. Hired Mr. McCullough's Plough and oxen. The next day returned them.
- " " 24th. Sowed the Rye in the old Field—10 Bu's.
- " " 28th. Laid out the Flax to Rot.
- " Oct. 24th. This day killed a Sheep. Weight, 50 lbs. 12½ lbs. Fat.
- " Dec. 16th. This day took to John Hough, the Weaver, 9 lbs. Warp, 11½ lbs. Filling. Rec'd 26 yds. Cloth Mar. 12th, '79.
- " " 20th. Tax this year on Sussex Farm, £3-8-6. Paid to Frederick Haines, £3-8-6.

Hard work and careful attention to these small matters won its deserved reward and the farm, at first rented, was gradually paid for and other acres added as means increased. During these trying years they lost four children, and in 1794 a new home was built on one of the other farms. The site chosen was on the hillside overlooking a broad meadow where a little trout-brook was the delight of our ancestor as it has since been of his descendants. This house finished, his next effort was to secure a means of communication with absent friends and members of his family. Through his influence the post office was established in 1795, and the name Hamburg then chosen.\* The mails were carried by Post Riders and the accounts show how irregular their time of arrival. A page from this P. O. Book is printed in "History of Sussex and Warren Counties," p. 343.

One readily understands why the postmaster felt a strong personal interest in securing the much-needed mail road over the Paterson mountain. This desirable work was accomplished in 1806, and Judge Lawrence (as he was always called after his appointment as Judge of Common Pleas Court, 1801) was one of the most "active spirits in the enterprise."† With what satisfaction after these years of effort he must have heard the post-horn echo through the valleys, and seen the four-horse coaches bring mails and passengers over the well-made turnpike road where now only a few broken mile stones mark the line of travel.

The pleasure Judge Lawrence derived from this intercourse through the mails is abundantly proved in the letters preserved by his children. The large sheets of

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\* See Hardyston Memorial, p. 44.

† See Hardyston Memorial, p. 111 et seq.

letter paper now yellow with age are beautifully written in a hand as clear as copper-plate and are well worthy of the loving care bestowed upon them. The usual style is easy and natural but on important occasions he indulges in some grandiloquent periods worthy of Dr. Johnson.

A volume could be made from these letters but only a few can here be quoted.

Writing to his youngest daughter, then visiting her married sister, Mrs. Shee, near Philadelphia, he complains as all old men do of the present age and longs for the purity and perfection of the past.

“SATURDAY, FEB. 25th, 1811.

“I have the vanity to think my lucubrations are more welcome to you than any other papers. Indeed I would not wish you to read the public papers of to-day. They display little else than a tissue of fraud, treachery and corruption and only serve to impress my mind with sad presages for the fate of my Country.”

In the same letter is an allusion to social pleasures.

“The snow continues, and the sleighing was never finer. Report says it reaches Philadelphia, if so, I hope you have been able to make some use of it. This is the week of our Court and on Friday noon Major Anderson drove up with Mr. Halsey, Mr. Frelinghuysen and a Mr. Wolley (lawyers) to pay me a visit. As I delight in the society of Gentlemen you may suppose this to have been a treat to me as it was to Mama and the girls. They returned the same evening to Newton.”

The next year being on the winning side gives the Judge a more hopeful view of the political situation. He writes to his son Richard.

“Nov. 1812.

“With the greatest satisfaction I rejoice in the glori-

ous renovation of our State. Jersey is at last Federal! and this is brought about at a most critical period, as on the measures of this State may depend a change in the government."

Another letter to his daughter gives an account of unexpected but ever-welcome visitors, showing the unbounded hospitality of the times.

"DEC. 14th, 1812.

"DEAR SARAH: I was going to seat myself to write when Uncle Tommy\* came over to see us on his way to preach at the Peppo-Cotton Meeting-house. With him came Johnny Youman, Richard and Tom, and they had not been long seated when Uncle Jimmy and Julia† drove up on their way to Goshen. 'A jolly party,' methinks I hear you say! These, with our own family, made up a good round fireside. Fortunately we had a fine piece of roast beef for them, such a one as would not have disgraced any stall in the Philadelphia Market, no not tho' it had received the palm at Sickler's Cattle Show at Bush-hill. A rib of it could not be found until you carved an inch through a shield of fat."

All the letters he received were carefully filed and put in packets each year. So many are there to choose from that it is hard to decide. This one from the distinguished Dr. Benjamin Rush will suffice to show how warm was the friendship of those who knew him in earlier years.

"PHILADELPHIA, DEC. 1802.

"The principal design of this letter is to assure you

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\* Rev. Thomas Teasdale.

† James Ludlum, Sr., and his neice, afterwards Mrs. A. Bruyn Hasbrouck.



how very dear you, and all your connections, are to me and my dear Mrs. Rush. Shall we never have the pleasure of seeing you in our city? Come, and let us talk over the times and names of our past! Let us do homage to the men of Anti-Revolutionary times and mingle our tears over the graves of patriots and friends. My heart grows warm with the prospect. Should you visit our city Mrs. Rush joins me in requesting that you will make our house your home."

The use of his pen was evidently a great pleasure as with all his letters and accounts he found time to copy anything in prose or verse that attracted his attention. One leather-bound note-book is filled with these so-called "elegant extracts" of the period. The selections do credit to his literary taste as some have now a world wide reputation, such as "An Elegy wrote by Mr. Gray," selections from "The Traveller, and Deserted Village, by Mr. Goldsmith" and "The Fireside, wrote by Doct. Cotton."

This last was a special favorite and he loved to read it aloud to the wife whose companionship was an unfailing source of happiness. To her he was ever the most devoted lover, writing daily in absence, telling often to his friends and children of the life of ease and luxury she had left to share his trials, and of her beauty and conquests in former days. (See p. 34-35.) The brocade gown she wore last at a ball during the rejoicings over Cornwallis' surrender was never allowed to be changed or worn by her children.

The last years of his life were spent in this tranquil enjoyment of the society of children with him and correspondence with those away. His elder daughters married soon after coming to Morrisvale. One was Mrs. Gabriel Ludlum, of Goshen, and the other Mrs. Warren DeLancey, of New York. One of the younger daugh-

ters married her cousin, W. L. Shee, and lived at Oxford, near Philadelphia, for a few years. In 1814 she returned to Sussex to the farm then rented to her husband and afterward given to her in her father's will. The youngest daughter's story was a sad one as she married Dr. Jesse Aarnell, of Goshen, in 1813 and both died in 1814. The marriage of his youngest son to a niece of William L. Sonntag, of Philadelphia, was very pleasing to him and the letters to members of the family who visited her show how cordially she was welcomed.

Hospitality was one of the virtues of that time as we have already seen, and much of their social pleasure depended upon it. One of the visitors whose coming was most enjoyable to the old gentleman was the widow of Capt. James Lawrence of "Don't give up the Ship" fame.

I find from the letters that she, with her little daughter and some of the Ogdens, of Newark, who were the means of her coming here, were met at Morristown. Rather a long drive to welcome the coming and speed the parting guest.

The letters concerning this visit are very carefully wrapped as if of special importance, even copies of the answers written by the Judge are with them showing some pride in his felicity of expression. Mrs. Lawrence was not a relative but her letters show an appreciation of the evident interest manifested in her affliction. In a letter to Mrs. Lawrence she alludes to the baby grandson who was then the pet of the household.

GREENWICH, Nov. 8th, 1816.

" \* \* I have been all anxiety to hear how dear little Tommy bears his whooping-cough. It was unfortunate he should have caught it at this unpropitious season.

\* \* I have sent him a little toy which will serve to amuse him. \* \* I have sent also a few trout-hooks,

which belonged to my beloved husband, to Mr. Lawrence, which I know he will value for his dear sake. Remember me with affection to all the family, and believe me Sincerely your friend

JULIA LAWRENCE."

Thus surrounded by those whom he best loved Judge Lawrence passed his last years in peaceful prosperity dying at his home November 18, 1823. No words can better describe his fate than those he loved to quote to his wife and children from his favorite poem "The Fireside."

" If solid happiness we prize  
Within our breast the jewel lies  
And they are fools who roam  
The world has nothing to bestow  
From our ownelves our joys must flow  
And that dear spot, our home.

THOMAS LAWRENCE, OF HAMBURG,  
(1814-1893.)

**H**APPY THE NATION THAT HAS NO HISTORY " has been often quoted but the words apply best to a life of quiet, unobtrusive usefulness. In it there is no event striking enough to make an entertaining story but like a gentle stream it benefits and blesses without attracting notice. Such thoughts of a beneficent influence, unseen but felt, are suggested by the life of the seventh Thomas Lawrence.

The youngest son of Judge Lawrence was born in 1789, two years after they came to Morrisvale, and called James during the lifetime of his eldest brother, Thomas. This eldest son, only child of second wife, was born July 4th, 1776, a fact noted in the family Bible. His brief career ended in 1799, when, just after receiving his commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the Army, he died of fever at Baltimore. The name of James was then changed to Thomas Johnston Lawrence (1789-1851). While visiting his sister, Mrs. Shee, at Philadelphia, he met Janet Willson, a young girl who had lost both parents in the yellow fever scourge of 1793, and been adopted by her uncle, William Sonntag. To her he was married December 1, 1813, by Bishop White.

As the intended home at Morrisvale was not ready for the young couple they lived for more than a year at Hamburg, and here, on December 30, 1814, their only son Thomas, was born at the home of his grandparents. The death of his young mother, in 1821, left him altogether to their indulgent care and his only sister was adopted by her Aunt, Mrs. Shee. Judge Lawrence died in 1823 and his son Thomas J. Lawrence, went to Lockport, New York, then called "the West." The grandmother and aunt were then left special guardians of the boy always known to them as "young Tom." There are no events to chronicle in these early years, but the long cherished wish to build his own home on the spot where they were spent tells the story of a happy childhood.

When about eighteen his own ambition led him to seek employment and he was sent to Joseph Northrup, at Andover, "a man of more than ordinary consequence,"\* whose varied interests were well calculated to give a young man knowledge of business methods. The one memory of that time that left the deepest impression was the wonderful meteoric shower of November 13, 1833, called "the most magnificent display on record." It was in the early morning and a light fall of snow made the effect more peculiar. Men, women and children cried out in terror as they saw the stars falling around them on the seeming blood red snow. Mr. Northrup kindly took his young clerk in his study and read of similar astronomical events for which he was ever grateful as the scene inspired more of awe than admiration. Two years later, when in a store in New York, he took part in the excitement of the great fire on December 16, 1835. These stories were often told in later years, but of more personal details connected with this

\* See History of Sussex and Warren Counties, p. 446.

period no one can now recall a word. We are also uncertain of the exact date of his first venture in business for himself at Lafayette, knowing only that he was in partnership there with Col. Joseph Northrup, son of the man at Andover, at the time of his marriage.

On the 11th of November, 1841, he was married to Margaret Rembert Taylor, daughter of Hugh Taylor, of Georgia, and Martha Linn. The next year the dream of his boyhood was realized, and his home built on the ground where his grandfather had lived. The house was finished and they lived in it for a year when the failure of the Lafayette business changed all his plans. He exchanged then with his wife's step-father, Richard R. Morris, who came to Hamburg, while he took charge of the anchor shops, forges, mill and store on the property of Judge Morris, at Sparta, and there the family lived for the next ten years.

The death of Thomas J. Lawrence, in 1851, gave his son possession of a part of the farm at Morrisvale and a few years later he decided to take personal charge of the property. From this time his life was devoted to the care of the land once owned by his grandfather. Only a portion of it became his by inheritance, but as other heirs wished to part with their shares his sole effort was to keep it from the hands of strangers. Eventually his industry was rewarded, but more than twenty years elapsed before the work was accomplished. In all this time the cultivation and improvement of the farms, so long neglected by careless tenants, was his special interest and with commendable pride did he point to the result of his labors. Many have heard him say: "Every building on the farm is better than I found it." Some barns and outbuildings were altogether new, and the stones once scattered over the surface of fields were laid in the firm stone fences that

now outline them. Everything was done under his personal supervision, as day after day he not only overlooked, but often took part in whatever was done. With what pleasure he saw each improvement finished and how much he enjoyed taking those who felt any interest such things to admire the changes made. His farms in were worked on shares but the changes of tenants were few. Those who were with him longest learned to love him best. Children born on his land grew up in their homes, and no one, out of his own family, was more attached to his every interest and worthy of the trust bestowed, than the man who for twenty years has had charge of the farm at Morrisvale.\*

The record of his official life shows the same quiet devotion to every duty given to his care. As early as 1855 he was made one of the Directors of the Sussex Bank and almost every Monday in the years that have passed was he present at the weekly meeting of the Board. It is doubtful if anyone living out of Newton has been as faithful in attendance. In 1888 he was elected Vice President, and the testimonial to his memory from that "Solid old Financial Institution" says: "Its position and prosperity is in a large measure due to Thomas Lawrence, who not only impressed upon its direction the wise counsels and honorable methods instinctive to him, but inspired that direction with the noble impulses of the generation to which he belonged."

In the same faithful way did he meet the obligations placed upon him by his position as Director, and afterwards President, of the Sussex Mutual Insurance Company, and also as Vice-President of the First and President of the Second Sussex Agricultural Society. In these as a farmer and lover of horses he took an active interest, responding promptly to every endeavor to

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\* Mr. Nathan Paddock.

make the Sussex Fairs creditable and successful. During all these years the subject of education occupied a place as important as his financial and agricultural interests. His name was on the first Board of Trustees when the State Normal School was established in 1855, and from that time he was most active and efficient in all matters connected with the free schools of his state, county and district. The standard of the village school was raised by his unremitting attention to its interests, and his aid and sympathy were ever ready for those who wished help to secure an education. In this he had indeed, as Wordsworth says :

“ That best portion of a good man's life,

His little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love.”

What he considered the greatest pleasure as well as profit derived from his school interests was the opportunity of meeting at Trenton with the distinguished, cultivated gentlemen united with him as Trustees of the Normal School. That now flourishing institution is a grand monument to the memory of such men as R. S. Field and Elias Cook, who secured the land, collected funds, and helped plan the buildings ; Gov. Rodman Price, who laid the corner-stone, and Dr. John MacLean, whose long life was devoted to the cause of education in New Jersey, and who saw the completion, while trustee, of work he had suggested fifty years before.\* With these were many other prominent men : Benjamin Williamson, W. A. Whitehead, Wm. L. Newell, B. F. Randolph, F. W. Ricord, Charles E. Elmer and others, who met from year to year to discuss this important subject, having, as one of them said, “ the advantage of experience in the business and opportunity to compare the present with the past.” Death only made vacancies

\* See Memorial of John MacLean, D. D., in 32nd annual report of Normal School, 1885.



in the ranks and, with pride in their united interest in the subject that called them together, they said with satisfaction that : "No one knew the politics or religion of another." The name of Thomas Lawrence was the only one left of the Trustees first appointed, when, after thirty years of active service and undeviating interest he resigned with regret on seeing names he valued and respected dropped because of political views.

From the time of his appointment to the State Board of Geology, in 1873, he used all the influence he possessed to secure aid and further the work of Prof. Cook and his able assistants, feeling great pride in the results accomplished. He was also an interested member of the New Jersey Historical Society after his election in 1881, although unable to do any special work for it.

In 1879 he was elected to the State Senate, filling this more prominent position with the same quiet but devoted attention to the required duties. It was said of him that, "As a legislator he was vigilant, intelligent and so high in an integrity recognized by all men, that the venal and corrupt never had the courage to tempt him with a bribe."

These public affairs did not divert his interest from the smaller duties of life for he was ever mindful of :

" The sober comfort, all the peace which springs  
From the large aggregate of little things."

His fidelity to his work as roadmaster has been mentioned elsewhere,\* by one who says : "He elevated the office by using brains in the discharge of its duties." It was his pride to show how country roads could be well made by those who observed a distinction between "working out their taxes" and making good roads. He

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\*See Sussex Independent, March 17, 1893.

used his pen to emphasize the importance of this subject as well as in the interests of agriculture.

Numerous other works of progress and improvement were aided by his efforts. The Church of the Good Shepherd, in the village, was built under his personal supervision, and the Rector said the Sunday after his death, that no one was more constant and punctual in attendance on its services.

However devoted to the work or office given to him, only those who knew him in his home have a perfect comprehension of the real man. His home was his first interest and his lasting happiness. To secure its comfort and convenience, no expense was spared and every appliance that could make a country home enjoyable was lavished upon it. In these days when the race for sudden wealth is absorbing the vitality of young men, leaving them unable to enjoy it when won, such a life of healthful happiness stands as a shining example of

“Duties well performed, and days well spent.”

His enjoyment of out-door pleasures was the source of his vigorous activity and at sixty, his step was as light and his movements as quick as any of his boys. In Spring the trout brook was his delight, as it had been of his father and grandfather, while the brilliant autumn days were devoted to his dog and gun. Seated in winter by the blazing wood fire, he often quoted from his grandfather's favorite poem :

“From the gay world we'll oft retire  
To our own family and fire  
Where Love our hours employs.”

To this satisfaction in his own personal comforts, how often he exclaimed, “Not a hoof or horn belonging to me is exposed to the winter's storm,” words now familiar to all who have seen the “Old Homestead.”

His cordial hospitality welcomed old and young with

the same attractive charm that as one visitor said : "United the genial heartiness of an American with the quiet dignity of an English gentleman."

To him was granted the rare happiness of seeing eleven children grow up in the home he had made. As the boys grew to manhood and the girls left to make homes for others, their hearts ever turned with loving devotion to the home of their childhood, and many special days have been marked on the family calendar by gatherings of children and grandchildren.

The crowning joy of this happy home life was November 11, 1891, when the fiftieth anniversary of the parents' marriage was celebrated. At this golden wedding feast twenty-nine members of the happy family circle were gathered together. From dawn to dark on that day came notes, letters, telegrams, and gifts of congratulation from absent friends. The joy was almost too deep for mirth then, and all remember how often the dear father's ever ready jest was stifled by "lips that only trembled with the thanks they could not speak."

The shadow of the coming sorrow fell all too soon after this day of happiness, but the year of his painful illness was borne with a patience that was pathetic in one so active. From the first he cherished no hope of recovery but with brave courage looked upon his fate. Even in suffering he had a welcoming smile for all who came in those last days.

The end came March 14, 1893, and it is too soon for those who feel the pain to speak calmly of all we have lost. One who knew him well has given expression to the thoughts of our own hearts in saying he was : "The man of inflexible integrity ; the citizen of spotless reputation ; the generous benefactor ; the affectionate husband, and the fond father fondly loved."



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